

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 INR-07 OES-06 SNM-02 IGA-02 /043 W

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R 021425Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4127

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5112

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKSIH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: A) ANKARA 4823, B) ANKARA 4414, C) ANKARA 4322,
D) ANKARA 3644

1. FIELD TRIPS: MISSION OFFICERS HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING
FIELD TRIP STO THE POPPY REGION RECENTLY:
JUNE 2-4 IN AFYON, USAK, DENIZLI, BURDUR, ISPARTA, KONYA
BY USAID OFFICER;
JUN 8 IN AFYON BY USAID OFFICER;
JUNE 16-21 IN AFYON, USAK, BURDUR, ISPARTA BY USAID OFFICER;
JUNE 23-25 IN KONYA, ISPARTA, BURDUR, DENIZLI, USAK,
AFYON BY EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR;
JUNE 27-29 IN AFYON, DENIZLI, ISPARTA BY USAID OFFICER;
JUNE 29-30 IN AFYON, DENIZLI, ISPARTA BY DEA SPECIAL AGENT.
IN ADDITION, DEA SPECIAL AGENTS HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING
FIELD TRIP TO FORMER GROWING AREAS NOT RPT NOT NOW LICENSED
FOR POPPY CULTIVATIO:
JUNE 8-10 IN CORUM, TOKAT, AMASYA.

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2. POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM: DURING ABOVE VISITS TO PROVINCES

FORMERLY LICENSED FOR POPPY CULTIVATION (REF. A), DEA SPECIAL AGENTS WERE TOLD BY JANDARMA AND TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE (TNP) OFFICIALS OF CONTINUED SCARCITY AND HIGH PRICE OF OPIATES, A SITUATION WHICH THESE OFFICIALS ASCRIBED TO SUCCESSFUL ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLICIT POPPY CULTIVATION. JANDARMA HAS ALSO CONFIRMED DETECTION AND DSTRUCTION OF 20 HECTARES (APPROXIMATELY 50 ACRES) OF ILLICITLY GROWN POPPIES IN ADIYAMAN PROVINCE. REPORTEDLY 109 FARMERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN ADIYAMAN IN THIS OPERATION. (COMMENT: THIS VIOLATION OF THE BAN AGAINST CULTIVATION OUTSIDE THE LICENSED PROVINCES FURTHER ADDS TO OUR CONCERN REGARDING THEGOT'S ABILITY TO POLICE EFFECTIVELY POPPY CONTRLS IF CULTIVATION WERE EXTENDED TO PROVINCES OUTSIDE THE PRESENT GROWING AREA, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE LESS SETTLED AND LAW-ABIDING EAST.)

3. POPPY CROP: FIELD TRIPS BY MISSION OFFICERS INDICATE FAR HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF SPRING-PLANTED POPPIES THAN LAST SEASON. HIGH LOSSES THROUGH WINTER KILL AND ANTICIPATION BY FARMERS OF A GOOD PRICE FROM THE GOT ARE CITED AS PROBABLE REASONS FOR BREAK WITH TRADITIONAL AVERSION TO SPRIN-PLANTING. SPRING-PLANTED FIELDS ARE GENERALLY VISABLY POORER THAN THOSE FALL-PLANTED FIELDS WHICH SURVIVED THE WINTER. CAPSULES OF SPRING-PLANTED POPPIES ARE MUCH SMALLER THAN FULL-PLANTED. WHETHER MORPHINE CONTENT IS ALSO LOWER IS SIMPLY NOT RPT NOT KNOW. ALTHOUGH THE EFFECTS OF SPRING-PLANTING ARE STILL UNCERTAIN, SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO) SOURCES EXPECT TONS (REF C). JULY 1 GOT ANNOUNCED THAT CEILING PRICES FOR FALL-PLANTED AND SPRING-PLANTED CAPSULES ARE TO BE TL 23 AND TL 21 PER KILO RESPECTIVELY (TL 16 EQUAL \$1).

4. UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES: VISIT TO ANKARA AND THE POPPY REGION AT GOT INVITATION OF HIGH RANKING UN NARCOTICS OFFICIALS (HEADS OF UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, UN DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, AND INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTORL BOARD) HAS BEEN CONFIRMED FOR JULY 7-17M. A UN-FUND CAMERA CREW WILL ALSO BE IN TURKEY DURING JULY TO FILM ASPECTS OF THE GOT POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM AND THE VISIT BY THE UN DLEGATION.

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5. PRESS: RECENT TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM HAS CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF REPORTING POLITICAL COMMENTS ON THE GOT'S HANDLING OF THE PROGRAM AND OF SPOT REPORTS ON THE ARRESTS OF CONTROLS' VIOLATORS. ON JUNE 28 LIBERAL REFORMIST MILLIYET REPORTED THAT REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY SEC GEN ALI TOPUZ HAD ACCUSED THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT OF " OPPRESSING" TH POPPY FARMERS WITH OVERLY SEVERE ENFORCEMENT OF THE

CONTROL PROGRAM. TOPUZ TOOK THE OCASION OF REMINDING VOTERS IN THE POPPY REGION THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT HAD LIFTED THE BAN AGAINST POPPY CULTIVATION. THE SAME DAY TURKISH STATE RADIO CARRIED THE REMARKS OF JUSTICE PARTY DEPUTY SECGEN IHSAN ATA OV WHO ACCUSED THE RPP OF TRYING TO WIN VOTES BY ENCOURAGING POPPY OVERPLANTING. ATA OV DECLARED THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT "ALWAYS EXTENDS A PROTECTIVE HAND TO THE POPPY FARMER. BUT THE HONOR AND AUTHORITY OF THE STATE MUST ENSURE THAT CULTIVATION BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW." JULY 2 PRO-RPP YENI ULUS REPORTED THAT RPP DEPUTY SULEYMAN MUTLU (AFYON) HAD INTRODUCED AN INTERROGATORY MOTION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CALLING UPON MINAGRICULTURE OZAL (NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY, NSP) TO ANSWER WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN "PRESSURE FROM FOREIGN STATES, PARTICULARLY FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT" REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPIUM ALKALOIDS PLANT AND WHY AND HOW BOLVADIN HAD BEEN CHOSEN AS THE PLANT SITE. (COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH AN AMCONGEN IZMIR OFFICER, THE MAYOR OF AFYON, AND INDEPENDENT, EXPRESSED THE FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED OPINION THAT BOLVADIN WAS CHOSEN ON PRIMARILY POLITICAL RATHER THAN ECONOMIC GROUNDS, I.E. ON THE BASIS OF VOTES FOR THE NSP.) PRO-NSP MILLI GAZETE JULY 2 CARRIED AN ARTICLE DATED MALATYA REPORTING THE EFFORTS OF MALATYA "LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS" TO LOBBY WITH THE JUSTICE PARTY AND REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY FOR EXTENDING POPPY CULTIVATION TO MALATYA PROVINCE. MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA05112
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760258-0464
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760797/aaaadhjg.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 ANKARA 4823, 76 ANKARA 4414, 76 ANKARA 4322
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKSIH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006